

SMR.
M2/B



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Savoy Cinema (Former Co-operative Society Store)
West Street, Boston**

*NGR: TF 3264 4388
LAS Site Code: BSCE 01
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2001.292
Boston Borough Council Planning Application B/00/408/FULL*

Archaeological Watching Brief

**Report for Northern Building Design Associates Ltd
(on behalf of Savoy Cinemas)**

by G. Tann

Conservation
Services

24 MAY 2002

Highways & Planning
Directorate

**LAS Report No. 584
March 2002**

Event LI 3022

Sowce LI 7158

LI 7760

Mon LI 82848 RO

13615

LI 82849 Med

13616

Contents

List of Figures	
List of Plates	
Summary	1
Introduction	1
Archaeological Background	3
The Watching Brief	3
Conclusion	10
Acknowledgements	11
Archive Summary	11
Appendix 1 - Context Summary	
Appendix 2 - Medieval and Post-medieval pottery (J. Young)	
Appendix 3 - Roman pottery (M. Darling)	
Appendix 4 - The animal bones (R. Moore)	
The Figures	
The Plates	

The Figures

- Fig. 1** Location of Boston (C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map Sheet 131; © Crown Copyright, reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).
- Fig. 2** Location of the monitored development site (based on a plan supplied by the client. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).
- Fig. 3** Plan showing the positions of the monitored groundworks to the east of the main building ((based on an extract from the 1970 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, Sheet TF 3243 NE. © Crown Copyright, reproduced at enlarged scale with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).
- Fig. 4** Locations of the recorded trench sections (based on a plan supplied by the client).
- Fig. 5** Sections showing deposits visible in the trench faces of the Eastern Extension (McDaid, after Field and Tann).
- Fig. 6** a) Section showing deposits in the eastern slot trench, Cinema 1 (McDaid, after Tann);
b) Section showing deposits in a trench excavated in the area of the Central Access (McDaid, after Tann).
- Fig. 7** a) Plan showing deposits in the External Trench alongside the SE Exit (Field, after Tann);
b) Section showing deposits in the External Trench (Field, after Tann).

The Plates

- PI. 1 Northern face of Trench 1 (looking NW).
- PI. 2 Location of Trench 1 (short trench) and Trench 2 (extending to main building). Looking NW.
- PI. 3 Deposits visible in northern face of Trench 2 (looking west).
- PI. 4 Brick cover of tile drain visible to east of Trench 2 in the eastern face of Trench 8 (looking SE).
- PI. 5 Trenches 1-3, showing deposits in northern face of Trench 3 (looking NW).
- PI. 6 Deposits visible in the northern face of Trench 4 (looking NE).
- PI. 7 Northern face of Trench 5 (looking NE).
- PI. 8 Silts deposits at the western end of the northern face of Trench 5 (looking NW).
- PI. 9 Trenches 5 (right), 6, and 7 (left). Looking west.
- PI. 10 Southern face of Trench 7, at the southern end of the main extension (looking SW).
- PI. 11 Dark silt fills of pits **157** and **158** (looking south at the SE corner of Trench 7).
- PI. 12 Darker silt visible at the eastern end of the Eastern Extension trenches immediately after machining (Trench 2, looking east).
- PI. 13 Position of the three narrow slot trenches in Cinema 1 (looking north).
- PI. 14 Brick rubble and underlying silt deposits seen in the eastern slot trench in Cinema 1 (looking east).
- PI. 15 Trench excavated at the western side of the Central Access Area (looking west).
- PI. 16 Fragments of plaster decoration found re-used as backfill below the floor at the NE corner of the Central Access Area (looking north).
- PI. 17 Brick rubble and soil below the suspended floor in the position of the new SW Stair Access (looking west).
- PI. 18 Position of trenches inspected in the position of the new NE Access (looking SW to the Central Access Area).
- PI. 19 Trench through brick rubble north of the former lift shaft, in the position of the new Fire Escape/Wheelchair Route (looking west).
- PI. 20 Drain connection trench, excavated from the new extension towards the SE corner of the yard (looking NW).
- PI. 21 Junction between black silt layer **183** and the underlying brown silt **182** (background) seen in the drain connection trench (looking SE).
- PI. 22 Short trench excavated beside the new SE Exit (looking north towards the new extension).

- PI. 23 Silt deposits in the trench beside the SE Exit, with thicker black silt (left) possibly marking the position of a backfilled boundary ditch (looking west).
- PI. 24 A laid brick surface was exposed beside the entrance through the wall at the northern side of the car park area closer to High Street (looking east).
- PI. 25 Position of the entrance with laid brick surface (left foreground), to the east of the cinema development site (looking NE).

**Savoy Cinema (Former Co-operative Society Store)
West Street, Boston
Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: TF 3264 4388

LAS Site Code: BSCE 01

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2001.292

Boston Borough Council Planning Application B/00/408/FULL

Summary

Groundworks for the extension to the existing building revealed silt deposits containing a single second century Roman sherd, as well as small numbers of sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery. Roman material has previously not been found in this part of Boston, but a single sherd does not necessarily indicate occupation nearby. It was unclear whether the later material derived from occupation of the site or from the introduction of material used to raise the level of the site, which is near the river. No trace of the Carmelite Friary (thought to have occupied land in the close vicinity) was seen. The northern edge of a ditch was found at the southern end of the development site; this probably marks a post-medieval property boundary. Brick rubble found below the floor of the existing building may derive from the Co-operative Society bakery which preceded it, demolished after a fire in early 1909.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in September 2001 by Northern Building Design Associates Ltd (NBDA), on behalf of Savoy Cinemas, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks to construct a new cinema in Boston. The watching brief was conducted in accordance with general requirements set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* published by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (1998), a letter dated November 2nd 2000 prepared by the Boston Community Archaeologist, and a series of written and verbal communications in September 2001.

Site visits were made on 21st September (GT), 28th September (NF and GT), 1st October (NF and GT), 5th November (NF), 8th, 16th and 17th January 2002 (GT).

Site Description

The development site is located on the east side of West Street and bounded to the south by Paddock Road (Fig. 2). It was formerly occupied by a Co-operative Society retail store, and existing buildings have been incorporated into the design.

Planning Background

Planning permission was granted by Boston Borough Council for the change of use of an existing retail unit and warehouse to a multiplex cinema, comprising alterations, and construction of an extension, subject to two conditions requiring archaeological investigations. Condition 2 required an

archaeological watching brief during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance. Condition 4 required the implementation of an approved programme of archaeological work, which had been stipulated as an archaeological desk-based assessment and site evaluation. The desk-based assessment was undertaken by LAS and it concluded that the impact of development on any archaeological remains would be minimal (Tann 2000). In the light of this collated information, the Boston Community Archaeologist did not require further evaluation, but requested a mitigation strategy for a watching brief on the site of the extension, with excavation of test pits if the foundations were to be deeper than 1.1m in depth, or if piles were to be used for the foundations (letter to Boston Borough Council, dated November 2nd 2000).

LAS were commissioned to conduct the archaeological watching brief after most of the external new foundation trenches had been excavated to depths of about 0.8m -1.6m below the existing surface (deepest where a ramp had been beside the building). Immediately after being commissioned to undertake this project, LAS produced a *Project Design and Estimate* and arranged an initial site visit, to determine whether any archaeological remains were present. Several deposits and features were evident, containing medieval and later pottery. All the visible deposits showed signs of human activity in the area.

Boston Borough Council instigated enforcement action at this stage as the development was in breach of the archaeological planning condition. Archaeological recording was suspended while an assessment of the archaeological implications of the unmonitored groundworks was conducted by the Boston Community Archaeologist and the Director of Heritage Lincolnshire (on behalf of Boston Borough Council). In response, LAS was asked to record all the excavated trenches in detail before construction work could resume in that area of the site. The requirement to monitor all further groundworks within the area of the new cinema development was reiterated, and visits were arranged to inspect shallow foundation trenches for emergency exits. LAS contacted the contractors in January 2002 to enquire if a date had been programmed for excavation of the final exit foundations, and were advised that excavation had been completed, but that the trench remained open. It was arranged that a monitoring visit would be made, and this took place the following morning (8th January); by that time, concrete had been poured and wall construction was taking place. LAS informed the Community Archaeologist, and the Enforcement Officer was again involved, requiring additional excavation to allow recording of any archaeological deposits encountered by the unmonitored works. By agreement with the Community Archaeologist, a 2.8m x 0.4m trench was excavated under close supervision alongside the new exit and recorded, satisfying the Enforcement requirement.

Land to the east and SE of the cinema development site was the subject of extensive works in preparation for a public/cinema car park. The groundworks here lay outside the area for which LAS had been commissioned, but limited informal monitoring was conducted with the contractors' permission by LAS during site visits. The car park area had a considerably higher potential for containing Friary remains than the cinema development site, and it is unclear what damage the recent

groundworks may have caused.

Archaeological Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared for this site in October 2000 (Tann 2000). That assessment considered archaeological and historical information relevant to the development area, and fuller background can be obtained from that source.

The only reported prehistoric find from the vicinity of the application site is a Neolithic greenstone axe from 350m to the SE. If at that date the site was habitable, deposits may have been buried beneath later alluvium. Roman occupation is known at Skirbeck and on the outskirts of Boston.

The settlement at Boston was documented by name in 1090. It was a sea port on the River Witham; the town and market developed around the church on the eastern side of the river. By the thirteenth century, Boston was the second largest port in England (after London) and the intense trade attracted religious institutions, including the Carmelite Friars, to available land on the undeveloped outskirts of the town. The first references to Carmelites (White Friars) in Boston date from 1293, and appear to relate to land to the east of Boston Haven. In 1307 a new site was established to the south of West Street, which then expanded until the Dissolution. The exact site of the friary remains uncertain: the grounds may have been opposite Doughty Quay, with another street frontage in West Street nearly opposite St. Lawrence Lane (Thompson 1856, 110).

The Co-operative Society bought the an old mansion house in West Street in 1888, with expansion producing the large Mansion Buildings store, with a new bakery with two ovens, stables and warehouses at the rear of the shops. In early 1909 a fire destroyed much of the bakery building. It seems probable that the existing building alongside Paddock Grove represents a complete reconstruction of the 1909 building.

The Watching Brief

The Eastern Extension (Figs. 3-5)

Outside the eastern wall of the existing main building, a 20m x 10m extension was constructed, using 7 west-east aligned trenches extending 10m to the east, with a 20m north-south aligned trench forming the eastern side. The extension footings had been excavated to a depth of about 0.9m, but a spell of wet weather had obscured the trench sides and created standing water and mud in the trench bases. The trench faces were rapidly scraped to clarify the position of different deposits, but various attempts to recreate a clear base to the trenches in order to allow recording of features in plan were thwarted by standing water and saturated soil.

In view of the practical obstacles to the detailed recording requested by Boston Borough Council, it was agreed that LAS should undertake as much recording as seemed reasonable, reflecting the nature of the deposits and finds identified. The contractors agreed to provide assistance to enable

deposits to be cleaned and recorded. Trench Numbers and Context Numbers used in the text are those assigned by LAS for recording purposes.

Trench 1 (Pls. 1 and 2)

The most northerly west-east aligned trench keyed into a projection of the existing building, and was therefore shorter (4.5m long). A former tarmac surface, bedded on crushed limestone, remained around the exterior of the new extension but had been removed from within it. This may have been laid after construction of the existing building.

The crushed stone bedding for the tarmac yard lay directly over several features, which had probably been truncated when the surface was laid. It was observed that no earlier yard surface, such as cobbling, was present; neither was there a homogenous soil layer that would have suggested cultivation. The latest buried feature was a small post-hole **166**, 0.2m diameter and 0.2m deep. A deeper post-hole **168** was positioned 0.25m to its west, extending over 0.7m to below the new foundation trench. Both these features may have been contemporary with the existing building or its late nineteenth century bakery predecessor, possibly acting as scaffolding supports.

The smaller post-hole had been located within the backfill of a 1.9m wide and 0.6m deep feature **107**, interpreted as a pit as it was not identified in the opposite trench face or in Trench 2. Its fill **105** was a mixed dark grey silt, with charcoal and light brown silt inclusions, with brick fragments at the top of the fill. The brick rubble may have been tipped specifically on the pit area, or it could be the remains of a layer that was later removed, leaving only a slight trace above the underlying settled fill.

Pit **106** coincided with the western side of a depression or cut feature, with its base approximately 1m below the modern ground level. Its latest fill was a dark grey-black silt **102**, which sloped down from east to west, and contained a sherd of eighteenth century pottery (Appendix 2). As with many of the deposits in this area, the recorded colour was variable and reflected the differential oxidation which occurred after exposure to light and air. Beneath **102** was a thin layer of light brown silt **170**, above a 0.3m thick distinctive deposit **103** (mixed brown silt with frequent flecks of charcoal and fired soil or tile, with larger pieces of tile near its base). Both these layers shared the same slope as **102**. The lowest exposed material was a clean light brown silt **104**, apparently devoid of charcoal, but which produced a single sherd of second century Roman pottery (Appendix 3). At the eastern end of the trench face the layer rose to 0.55m below the tarmac surface, but to the western side of **107** it was 0.4m from ground level. Elsewhere on the site this clean silt was only seen near to the base of the foundation trenches, and this highest exposure could represent a bank of upcast excavated from a north-south aligned ditch. In this scenario, the ditch may have been between 3m and 4m wide, but possibly only about 0.4m deep. All the surviving fills could be the results of natural flooding episodes.

Trench 2 (Pls. 2 and 3)

This trench was 0.6m south of Trench 1, and extended a further 5m westward to the upstanding wall

of the existing building. The northern trench face exhibited a similar sequence to that of Trench 1. Brick rubble survived below the crushed stone bedding **101** only as far east as the adjacent projection, suggesting that it had been a restricted deposit. It was unclear whether its extent related to the area beside the existing building, or if the coincidence was fortuitous.

Below **101** was the dark grey-black silt layer **102**, between 0.1m and 0.25m thick. Close to the western end it had been removed by a 0.8m wide and 0.35m deep pit or other intrusion **124** (which produced a fragment of slag and a piece of an iron knife blade). At the eastern end was another disturbance **125**, with a dark brown/black silt fill **126**. This had cut into the upper part of layer **103**, but, because of the colour similarity, it was unclear whether it had been dug through the overlying silt. Elsewhere, layer **102** covered the light brown silt with tile inclusions **103**, with up to 0.15m of the clean brown silt **104** visible at the base of the trench face.

A tile-lined drain **127** was exposed crossing the base of the eastern end of Trench 2 and the northern end of Trench 8 on a SW-NE alignment (Pl. 4). The tiles were roof tile fragments, but none were collected. This drain is thought to have been post-medieval.

Trench 3 (Pl. 5)

This trench was 1.3m south of Trench 2. Rapid examination of the northern trench face identified the sequence of **102** over **103** with **104** at the base, as seen in Trenches 1 and 2. A 0.65m wide pit **130** was seen 2.5m east of the existing building, cut through **102** to below the trench base.

At the eastern end of the southern trench face was **106**, a 3m wide and 0.25m deep feature (which may represent a continuation of **125** from Trench 2).

Trench 4 (Pl. 6)

Interpretation of this trench, 2.6m south of Trench 3, was hampered by a series of similar deposits interspersed with clearly different material, some of which exhibited sloping tip lines. Deposits similar to those visible in Trench 1 were recorded, suggesting that the sequence in that trench may form part of an extensive feature across this part of the site.

In Trench 4, the clearest stratigraphy was at the eastern end, with **101** sealing the black silt layer **102**. Here there is a suggestion that layer **102** represents a continuing process, possibly of cultivation. Pit **112**, a 2.5m diameter feature, at least 0.4m deep with sloping sides, was sealed by black silt, but also cut an almost identical deposit **115**. The pit fill **113** was a dark silt with brick fragments and charcoal inclusions.

Below **115** was a thin lens of yellow clay **114**, apparently the same as **170** in Trench 1. A further continuation of this downward-sloping layer was seen on the western side of pit **112**. In both places the layer covered a mixed light brown silt **103** with brick inclusions. At the western edge of **114**, the

yellow clay seemed to be both covered by and overlying an identical light brown silt. The best interpretation of this situation was that an ill-defined second pit **172** was present near the western end of the trench, about 3m from the existing building. Support for the interpretation was provided by an additional levelling layer **108** (of ash and cinders) below the crushed stone layer **101**. The cinders might derive from the former bakery, and have been tipped to level a depression created by settlement of lower fills.

Deposits at the western end of the trench had been confused by foundation trenches and brick foundations for the removed ramp. It was unclear whether the deposits between these features had been redeposited or contaminated.

Trench 5 (Pls. 7 and 8)

This was positioned 4m south of Trench 4. Despite much of the western part of the trench being disturbed by previous foundations and backfilled foundation trenches, it was possible to see similar deposits as in that trench. The ash and cinders deposit **108** was restricted to a 3.5m wide depression 0.2m deep, centred about 3m east of the existing building. Below the black silt **102** was a 3.5m wide thin layer of light brown silty clay **120**, interpreted as a spread of the fill from a 0.7m wide vertical-sided post-hole or pit **119**. The fill contained a very abraded sherd of pottery which may have been Roman or medieval. It is possible that the material was actually a separate deposit (stratigraphically and visually similar to **114/170**).

The brown silt with tile inclusions **103** was darker than seen further to the north, and produced shell fragments. At the eastern end of the trench face it sloped downwards to the west, over a black silt deposit **165** which contained preserved twigs.

Trench 6 (Pl. 9)

A rapid inspection of the trench face identified no obvious significant features and the same sequence of deposits as in Trench 5, 1.7m to the north.

Trench 7 (Pl. 10)

The southern foundation trench of the new extension cut through a zone of twentieth century disturbance within 3m of the existing building. This included foundations for the former Co-operative Society building's ramp, but also slightly earlier structures. Within this zone, it was unclear whether any of the surviving soil deposits remained *in-situ* or whether they had been redeposited as part of foundation construction.

To the east of the ramp position, the southern trench face contained similar deposits to those recorded in the other trenches. Below the crushed stone layer **101** was a compact dark grey silt layer **135** (assumed to be the same as **102**) with frequent brick and tile fragments and other inclusions. This layer sealed the brown silt with tile fragments deposit **137** (recorded as **103** elsewhere). Below it was

a brown-dark brown silt **138**, which may have been the same deposit as **165** or **104**, despite the considerable colour difference.

At the eastern end of the trench, in the SE corner of the extension, was the western edge of a 0.7m wide, and 0.5m deep feature **157** (Pl. 11). The side of the feature was almost vertical, other than a slight lip; it had a flat base. Its lowest fill was a 0.02m thick lens of peat **139**, suggesting a period of vegetation growth in waterlogged conditions (although redeposition of peat is also possible in this context). Above the peat, the fill **136** was a black silt with brick flecks (darker than **135**, but probably derived from it as it cut through that layer). Immediately below this feature was the very similar **158**, about 0.2m wider, and sealed by **135**. Its fill, **140**, was a dark grey silt with very few inclusions. The similarity of these two features suggested that one had replaced the other, either as ditches or as post-holes; the steep profile seemed more suited to a post-hole or pit, than to a ditch cut through the local silts.

On the opposite face of the trench, extending 0.6m further west and 0.8m north, was the western edge of **174**, a feature filled with a dark grey silt. This may have formed part of **158**, but it was considered to be part of a separate feature.

Trench 8 (Pl. 4)

The eastern face of the trench revealed the fills of late twentieth century disturbances, occupying much of its length. This prevented further examination of the features at the southern corner. A 3m length of less disturbed deposits survived at the northern end, and here it was possible to identify the deposits seen in the NE corner. The NE-SW aligned crude brick drain seen at the base of Trench 2 survived in the trench face, cut through layer **104**, but was indistinguishable in the higher silt layer **103**.

To the south of the drain, the sequence of deposits had been removed to below the base of the trench. Rapid examination of the trench face identified a thin lens of very dark, peat-like silt, which may represent **139**, seen at the SE corner. This would imply that **157** and **158** were linear features, probably a ditch, but the evidence is insufficient. It was impossible to determine whether **172**, **106** and **125** were separate post-holes or parts of a linking feature with variable fills.

Interpretation of the deposits seen in the extension area was thwarted by the inability to identify reasons for the discontinuity of layers. Monitoring of the excavation of these trenches would have assisted in this. An attempt was made by the contractors to clean the trench bases with a machine bucket, under archaeological observation. This failed as the soil was already waterlogged by a combination of heavy rainfall and high local water table, and where the ground was successfully cleaned without smearing, it was rapidly covered in a thin layer of water insufficient for removal by pumping. During this process, a marked difference was seen in the colour of the silts at the trench bases, and this abrupt change was plotted (Pl. 12). The incompletely revealed division formed an

irregular north-south alignment, with dark fills to the east and light brown silt to the west. Although supporting evidence is missing, one interpretation is that a dark silt (similar to **165**) underlies the exposed deposits immediately below the trench bases, and slopes down gradually towards the west.

Cinema 1 (Pl. 13)

Within the area destined to accommodate Screen 1, three 0.6m wide and 11.8m long north-south aligned slot trenches were cut through the existing concrete floor and excavated to a total depth of 0.6m, for use as strip footings. The narrow trenches were inspected and the most easterly trench face was recorded (Fig. 6a). All the other trenches had been heavily disturbed by an existing underground fuel tank and various services.

The 0.17m thick concrete slab floor had a bedding of 0.5m clinker and 0.15m brick rubble. These layers may derive from the bakery phase of the site (and its demolition), in the early twentieth century. A pit cut through the clinker, and in turn disturbed by an electricity cable, indicates that the concrete may be a replacement surface.

Below the brick rubble was a 0.15m thick layer of mixed clay and brick rubble **154**, with an intermittent very thin lens of brick rubble **155** below it. This may represent material derived from construction trenches when the bakery was first built, or be a consolidation spread imported onto the site. It sealed a 0.2m thick layer of black silt **144**, beneath which was a dark brown silt layer **156** with flecks of tile and fine gravel inclusions (Pl. 14). This deposit may be the same as **103**, seen outside the existing building in the extension foundation trenches at a similar level.

Central Access (Pl. 15)

A trench was excavated by the contractors by hand, within an existing room in the position of the intended stairs (beside the new female toilets). The trench was designed to allow access to an existing mains electricity duct, which remained live. The concrete casing protecting the cable duct was at the centre of the SW-NE aligned 5.5m long, 0.75m wide trench, and all deposits to the SW had been disturbed. The remainder of the trench was less disturbed, and the western trench face was recorded (Fig. 6b).

The concrete slab floor had been removed, exposing the loose brick rubble fill of a construction trench for the upstanding wall at the northern end. The section showed that the construction trench had been cut through a 0.15m thick spread of brick rubble and mortar **145**, probably the same layer as seen in Cinema 1. The rubble layer comprised much crumblier bricks than the loose trench fill, and was clearly derived from an earlier building than the upstanding wall (which seemed to be of mid- or late twentieth century construction).

Below the rubble layer was a 0.2m thick layer of light brown silty clay with tile fragments **141**, with an underlying similar layer **142** of a much darker hue (which contained a fragment of a twelfth-thirteenth

century pottery 'curfew'). These may be similar to layer **103** seen outside the building. The earliest exposed deposit was a mixed light brown silt **143**, at least 0.25m thick, and possibly similar to **104**.

A second narrow trench was opened by hand in the NE corner of the former room space, about 4m east of the other. Below the concrete floor slab were the walls of a basement or underfloor cavity (possibly a stair well) with the space between them backfilled with brick rubble, mortar and pieces of a plaster mould-cast figurative plaque (PI. 16). This material was presumably demolition material from the original Co-operative Society bakery.

SW Access

Groundworks in advance of a new stair access, from the southern end of the existing Paddock Grove wall, involved hand excavation, by the contractors, of a 1.5m x 4.3m trench through a concrete floor beneath a suspended concrete floor (PI. 17). The lower floor was of quarry tiles laid on a concrete bedding, 1.2m below the suspended surface, and at the outside street level. Beneath the bedding layer was a layer of brick rubble, on a thin layer of ash and cinders. This material covered a brown silty clay deposit.

Two concrete pads, 0.7m diameter, survived below the level of the lower concrete floor. These were interpreted as bases of columns removed when the suspended floor was installed.

NE Access

After demolition of an existing extension on the eastern side of the building, new foundation trenches were excavated to a width of 0.45m and depth of 0.6m through the concrete slab floor (PI. 18). These disturbed nothing other than brick rubble, leaving soil deposits intact below.

Fire Escape/Wheelchair Route

A 7.2m x 2.8m trench was excavated through the concrete floor north of the former lift shaft, to a depth of 0.55m. All the material removed was previous brick rubble and mortar infill, and soil deposits were not reached (PI. 19).

Drain Connection Trenches

Drain trenches were excavated to the east of the cinema building, in order that new drains would take rainwater from downpipes and connect with existing drains.

A trial trench for the new drain leading from the NE corner of the new extension located the existing drain 0.5m below the tarmac surface. The surrounding ground was brick rubble at this depth, and monitoring of the new drain trench was abandoned. A trial trench for the other drain (from the SE corner of the extension) encountered silt deposits, and a watching brief was maintained during excavation of the new drain trench (PI. 20).

The tarmac yard surface covered a layer of clean crushed stone, apparently imported as a bedding layer. Below it was a 0.22m thick black silt layer **183** (possibly a buried topsoil), and an underlying brown silt **182** at 2.75m OD, only visible in the trench base at the SE end (Pl. 21). These layers appeared to be continuations of deposits seen in the trenches for the cinema extension.

External Trench (alongside SE Exit) (Fig. 7)

This 2.8m long x 0.4m wide trench was excavated to a depth of 0.7m, in order to allow deposits at the SE corner of the cinema building to be recorded (Pl. 22). The tarmac here lay on two layers of limestone chips, with black silt **181** below. At the northern end of the trench this silt was 0.14m thick, overlying a dark brown silt **180** at 2.7m OD (Pl. 23). The black silt **181** was thicker towards the southern end of the trench, extending over 0.25m thick and below the trench base. This appeared to be the fill of a west-east aligned feature, which may have been a ditch over 2m wide; in this position it is alongside the site boundary, and a former boundary ditch is the most obvious interpretation. The fill contained three bones from a sheep (or similarly-sized animal), one of which had knife cuts, and another had apparently been sawn. Sawing was uncommon as a butchering technique until the nineteenth century, and in modern butchery the saw is used along the spinal cord (Appendix 4). This example could represent early use of the saw, and thus date the deposit to after the late eighteenth century.

Car Park Area to East of Cinema Development

The only feature of interest seen in the area east of the former car park ramp was a laid brick surface outside the rear entrance of Nos. 12A and 12B West Street (Pls. 24 and 25).

Conclusion

As anticipated, the groundworks within the cinema development site were not deeper than 1.1m from existing ground level, and did not penetrate to medieval deposits. Despite their limited impact on underlying deposits, some information about the previous use of the site could be obtained.

The second century Roman sherd is probably a stray sherd redeposited within a later soil imported onto the site to consolidate wet ground, but insufficient of this layer was exposed to allow any firm conclusions to be drawn.

No evidence was found of any nineteenth or twentieth century buildings to the rear of the existing building. This added detail to the very sparse available records of the various phases of Co-operative Society buildings on the site. It also suggests that archaeological deposits may survive immediately to the rear of the new cinema. Brick rubble was frequently encountered below the inside of the existing building, and this is thought to represent consolidation material introduced when the store was built after 1909. It remained unclear whether the existing building was placed on the site of a predecessor or on formerly open ground. The building does not appear to be a 1909 structure, and various parts of the Co-operative Society premises closer to West Street may have been developed before that area.

It is possible that late horizons at the rear of Paddock Grove were removed during site levelling at some point in the late nineteenth or twentieth century, but there was no opportunity to examine deposits on the higher ground immediately east of the development site boundary, to establish whether a natural slope had been terraced or the ground lowered in the former Co-operative Society yard. Below the tarmac yard surface were two layers of crushed limestone bedding (probably a single phase), indicating major effort was expended to create a firm surface. If material was removed last century, it is likely that only early twentieth century building foundations were lost, as the surviving upper silt layers contain eighteenth and nineteenth century material. The black silt layer below the yard surface could be a buried garden soil, with the open ground defined to the south by a ditch.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Chris Tyrrell (NBDA), Richard Hudson and Mike Strachan (Lindum Construction), Rebecca Wilcox (Boston Community Archaeologist) and Dave Start (Heritage Lincolnshire). The watching brief was carried out by Naomi Field and Geoff Tann. Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid, Jane Young and Maggi Darling identified the pottery, and the report was produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
17th May 2002

References

- Tann, G. 2000 *West Street/Paddock Grove, Boston, Former Co-operative Society Site: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. LAS Report No. 473, October 2000.
- Thompson, P. 1856 *History and Antiquities of Boston and the Hundred of Skirbeck*. 1997 Reprint.

Archive Summary

Archaeological finds: pottery, tile, animal bone, iron, slag

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film nos. 01/71/0-9, 22-35; 01/73/32-36; 01/74/20-25; 01/102/14-19; 01/103/2-13; 02/2/17-22; 02/4/3,4, 9-15 (including those used in this report)

Developer's plans

Annotated plans

Field section drawings

Inked section drawings

Specialist archive lists/reports: Roman pottery, Post-Roman pottery and tile, animal bone

Correspondence

Appendix 1

Context Summary

BSCE 01

Boston Savoy Cinema, West Street

Context No.	Trench/Area	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds
100	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	layer		tarmac	
101	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	layer	below 100, above 167, 169,108,109,111,135,136	limestone hardcore	
102	1,4,5	layer	above 105, cut by 107, 168	dark grey/black silt	pot x 2
103	1,4,5	layer	below 170, cut by 107, 119 and 125; above 165	very mixed grey/brown silt	pot x 7, tile x 3
104	1	layer	below 103	light grey/brown silt	pot x 1
105	1	fill	fill of 107, cut by 166	mixed dark grey and beige silt, with charcoal	
106	3	cut	filled by 171, cuts 103	2.5m+wide feature	
107	1	cut	filled by 105, cuts 102	pit, 0.19m diam, 0.6m+ deep	
108	4,5	layer	below 101, cut by 111, over 102 and 121	crushed cinders	
109	4,5	cut		foundation trench, above concrete slab 110	
110	4,5	fill		concrete foundation of main building	
111	4,5	fill		brick foundation	
112	4	cut	filled by 113, cuts 103	cut	
113	4	fill	fill of 112, below 114	brown/grey silt with brick and charcoal flecks	
114	4	layer	below 115, above 113	yellow clay silt with charcoal flecks	
115	4	layer	below 102, over 114	dark grey silt, similar to 102	
116	5	fill	fill of 118, below 117	brick wall foundation	
117	5	fill	fill of 118	fill of foundation trench	
118	5	cut	cuts 108, filled by 116,117; below 101	wall foundation trench	
119	5	cut	cuts 103, filled by 120	pit	
120	5	fill	fill of 119, below 102	light brown silt clay	pot x 1; tile x 3
121	5	layer	below 108, above 122	brown clay with tile fragments	

Context Summary

BSCE 01

Boston Savoy Cinema, West Street

Context No.	Trench/Area	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds
122	5	layer	below 121, above 103	black silt	
123	2	fill	fill of 124, below 102	dark brown silt clay	fe obj; slag frag; pot x 5, tile x 2
124	2	cut	filled by 123, cuts 103	0.8m wide, 0.35m deep	
125	2	cut	filled by 126, cuts 103	pit	
126	2	fill	fill of 125	dark brown/black silt/clay	pot x 1
127	2,8				
128	4	cut	filled by 129		
129	4	fill	fill of 128		pot x 1
130	3	cut	filled by 131		
131	3	fill	fill of 130		pot x 2
132	7	layer	above 133	brown silt	
133	7	layer	below 132, above 134	black silt	
134	7	layer	below 133	brown silt	
135	7	layer	below 101, ?cut by 157; above 137 and 175	dark black compact silt with a few brick flecks	pot x 1
136	7	fill	fill of 157, below 101, above 139	black silt with brick fragments	pot x 2
137	7	layer	below 135, above 138	dark brown silt clay with tile fragments	
138	7	layer	below 137; cut by 158	brown-dark brown silt	pot x 1
139	7	fill	fill of 157, below 136	peat lens at base of feature	
140	7	fill	fill of 158, cut by 157	dark grey silt	
141	inner	layer	above 142, below 145	mixed light brown clay with tile fragments	
142	inner	layer	below 141, above 143	dark brown/black silt with tile fragments	mortar lump; pot x 2, tile x 1
143	inner	layer	below 142	mixed light brown silt/clay	tile x 3
144	Cinema 1footing	layer	below 155, above 156	black silt	pot x 1, tile x 2
145	inner	layer	below 146, above 141	brick rubble and mortar	
146	inner	layer	above 145, 147 and 148	concrete rubble and bricks	
147	inner	layer	cut by 148	disturbed deposits	
148	inner	cut	cuts 147 and 145; below 146	20thC mains electric ducts	

Context Summary

BSCE 01

Boston Savoy Cinema, West Street

Context No.	Trench/Area	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds
149	Cinema 1footing	layer	above 151	concrete	
150	Cinema 1footing	cut	filled by 151, cuts 152	cable trench	
151	Cinema 1footing	fill	below 149, fill of 150	very mixed light brown silt clay with clinker	
152	Cinema 1footing	layer	cut by 150, above 153	clinker	
153	Cinema 1footing	layer	below 152, above 154	brick rubble	
154	Cinema 1footing	layer	below 153, above 155	dark brown mixed clay	
155	Cinema 1footing	layer	below 154, above 144	mortar and brick rubble	
156	Cinema 1footing	layer	below 144	brown silt with gravel and fine fragments of tile	
157	7	cut	cuts 137; ?cuts 135; filled by 136 and 139		
158	7	cut	cuts 138, filled by 140		
159	7	fill	abutted by 164 and 101; ?cuts 135	brick foundation on concrete base	
160	7	layer	below 101, above 161, 162 and 163	concrete rubble	
161	7	layer	below 160, above 162	brick foundation	
162	7	layer	below 160, above 164	loose soil between 159 and 161	
163	7	layer	below 160, above 132	modern deposit of dark brown silt	
164	7	fill	below 162, abuts 159	concrete foundation	
165	5	layer	below 103	black silt	
166	1	cut	below 101, cuts 105, filled by 167	post-hole	
167	1	fill	fill of 166, below 101	fill	
168	1	cut	cuts 102, filled by 169	post-hole	
169	1	fill	fill of 168, below 101	fill	
170	1	layer	below 102, above 103	layer of light brown silt	
171	3	fill	fill of 106, below 101	black fill of 106	
172	4	cut	filled by 173, cuts 115	cut	
173	4	fill	fill of 172, below 102	grey/brown silt	
174	7,8	cut	filled by 175, cuts 137/103	cut	
175	7,8	fill	fill of 174, below 135	dark grey/brown silt fill	

Context Summary
BSCE 01

Boston Savoy Cinema, West Street

Context No.	Trench/Area	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds
176	4	layer	above 102, below 101	very dark black soil	
177	not used				
178	not used				
179	not used				
180	EnfTrench	layer	below 181	brown silt	
181	EnfTrench	layer	above 180	black silt	3 x animal bone
182	Drain Trench 2	layer	below 183	brown silt	
183	Drain Trench 2	layer	above 182	black silt	
184	Car Park	layer	unstratified	light brown silt	

Appendix 2

Pottery Archive BSCE01

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	part	description	date
102	CHPO		teabowl/cup	1	1	BS	blue decoration	18th
102	CREA		small dish	1	1	rim		late 18th
103	BERTH		?	1	1	BS		16th to 18th
103	BL		jar	1	1	BS		17th to 18th
103	FREC		jug	2	1	BS		16th to 17th
103	GRE		jar ?	1	1	BS		16th to 17th
103	GRE		jar	1	1	BS		16th to 17th
103	TB		?	1	1	BS		14th to 17th
120	MISC	R/OX/R	?	1	1	BS	very abraded	Roman to medieval
123	BOSTTT		?	1	1	BS	? ID	13th to 14th
123	FREC		jug	1	1	BS		16th to 17th
123	MEDLOC		?	1	1	BS	tiny frag	13th to 15th
123	NOTS		cup	4	1	BS		late 18th to early 19th
126	GRE		bowl	1	1	rim		16th to 17th
129	TB		jug/jar	1	1	BS	reduced pocked glaze	15th to 16th

context	cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	part	description	date
131	BOSTTT		jug	1	1	BS		13th to 14th
131	DUTR		pipkin	1	1	BS	soot	14th to 16th
135	TPW		dish	1	1	rim		19th
136	NCBW		unusual form	2	1	BS		19th
138	EMHM		jar	1	1	BS	? ID	12th to 13th
142	BOSTTT		jug ?	1	1	BS		13th to 14th
142	MEDLOC	OX/R/OX;med sandy;hard	curfew	1	1	BS	int soot	12th to 13th
144	STMO		?	1	1	BS	tiny frag	18th
181	GRE		bowl	1	1	BS		17th to 18th
182	BL		closed	1	1	BS		mid 17th to 18th

Tile Archive BSCE01

Jane Young

Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	frags	weight	description	date
103	BRKDISC	2	19	handmade	post-med
103	GFLOOR	1	460	Flemish ?;6 nail holes 4 corner & 2 central;reduced glaze;near complete;108x108x22mm	14th to 16th
120	NIB	1	148	thin tile	medieval
120	PNR	1	64	poor fabric	medieval
120	PNR	1	267	mortar;flat roofer;cloth impression on tile edge	medieval
123	BRKDISC	1	6	handmade	med to post-med
142	BRKDISC	1	8	handmade	post-med
143	BRKDISC	2	22	handmade	post-med
143	PNR	1	96	mortar	med to post-med
144	BRK	1	113	handmade	post-med
144	PNRDISC	1	7		post-med

Codename Glossary

BRK	Brick
BRKDISC	Brick [discarded]
GFLOOR	Glazed floor tile
NIB	Nibbed tile
PNR	Flat roof tile
PNRDISC	Flat roof tile [discarded]

Codename Glossary BSCE01

cname	full name	earliest date	latest date
BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800
BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750
BOSTTT	Boston Glazed ware - Toynton type	1230	1330
CHPO	Chinese Export Porcelain	1640	1850
CREA	Creamware	1770	1830
DUTR	Dutch Red Earthenware	1250	1650
EMHM	Early Medieval Handmade ware	1100	1250
FREC	Frechen stoneware	1530	1680
GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	1500	1650
MEDLOC	Medieval local fabrics	1150	1450
MISC	Unidentified types	400	1900
NCBW	19th-century Buff ware	1800	1900
NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	1690	1900
STMO	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	1690	1800
TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke wares	1450	1750
TPW	Transfer printed ware	1770	1900

Appendix 3

**REPORT 102 ON POTTERY FROM WATCHING BRIEF AT
SAVOY CINEMA, WEST STREET, BOSTON, BSCE01**

for LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

21 March 2002

The pottery consists of a single sherd, weight 9g, from context 104. This is a fragment of rim in quartz-gritted grey fabric, in abraded condition. No problems are anticipated for long term storage. The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*.

The rim is too small to determine the diameter of the vessel, but the lack of curvature would suggest a bowl rather than a jar form, the rim type being a simple everted rim. This cannot be closely dated, but is likely to belong to the mid to later 2nd century.

© M.J. Darling, 2002

Appendix 4

APPENDIX 4

Animal Bones from the Savoy Cinema site, West Street, Boston

by Richard Moore

Three bones were collected from context **181**, the fill of a possible boundary ditch recorded in the External Trench close to the SE Exit of the new cinema.

1. Sheep. Left metatarsal, distal end and part of shaft. Fairly small, which may be indicative of a medieval or post-medieval date, as modern examples tend to be larger. ?Knife cuts across the shaft.
2. Sheep-sized. Rib, ?sawn close to the articulating end. Sawing was not used until the nineteenth century, although in modern butchery carcasses are now sawn along the spinal cord into separate sides. This example could be transitional - using a saw but butchering in an earlier style - or the result of post-depositional damage.
3. ?Sheep-sized. ?vertebra fragment.

The Figures

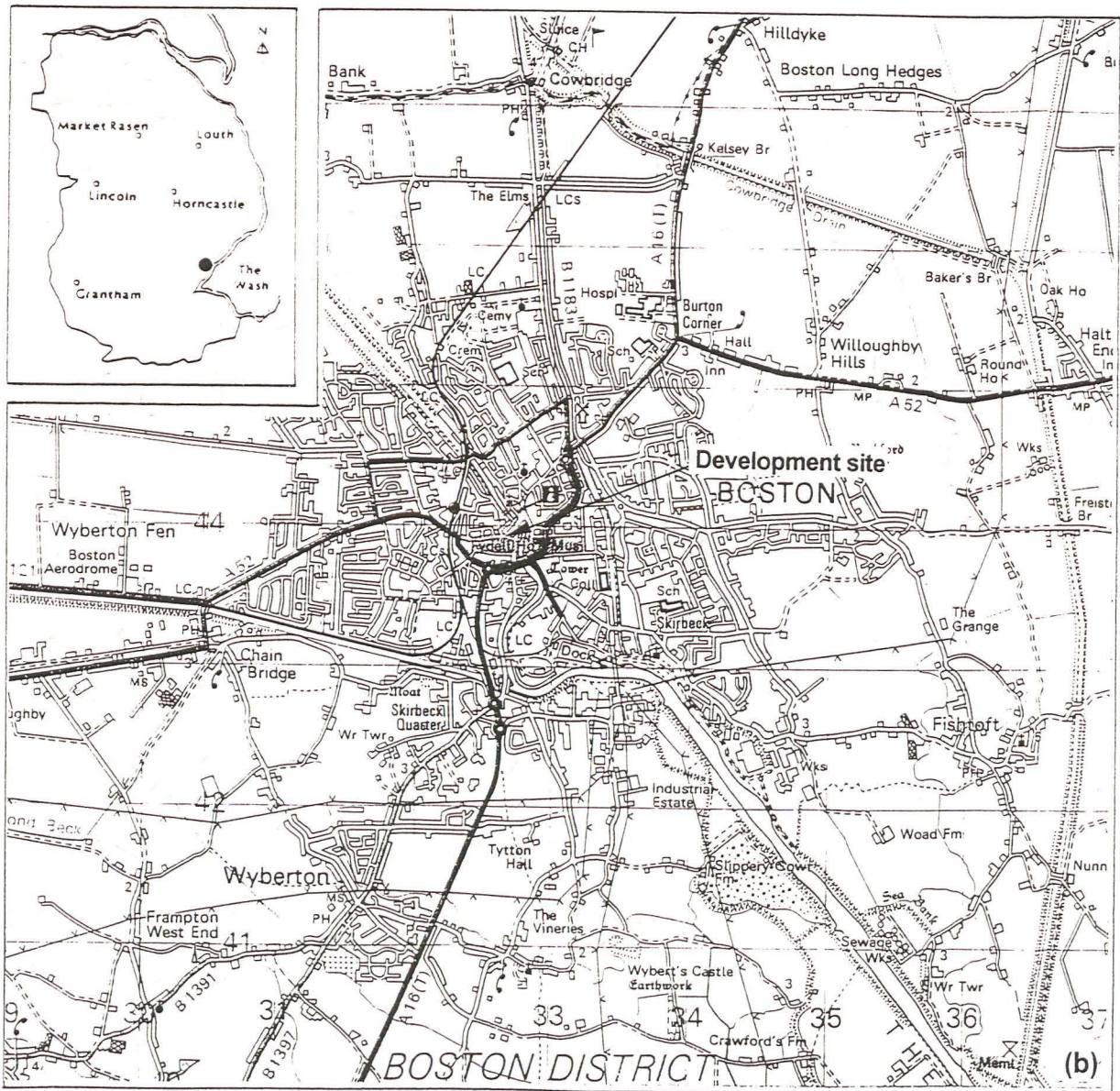
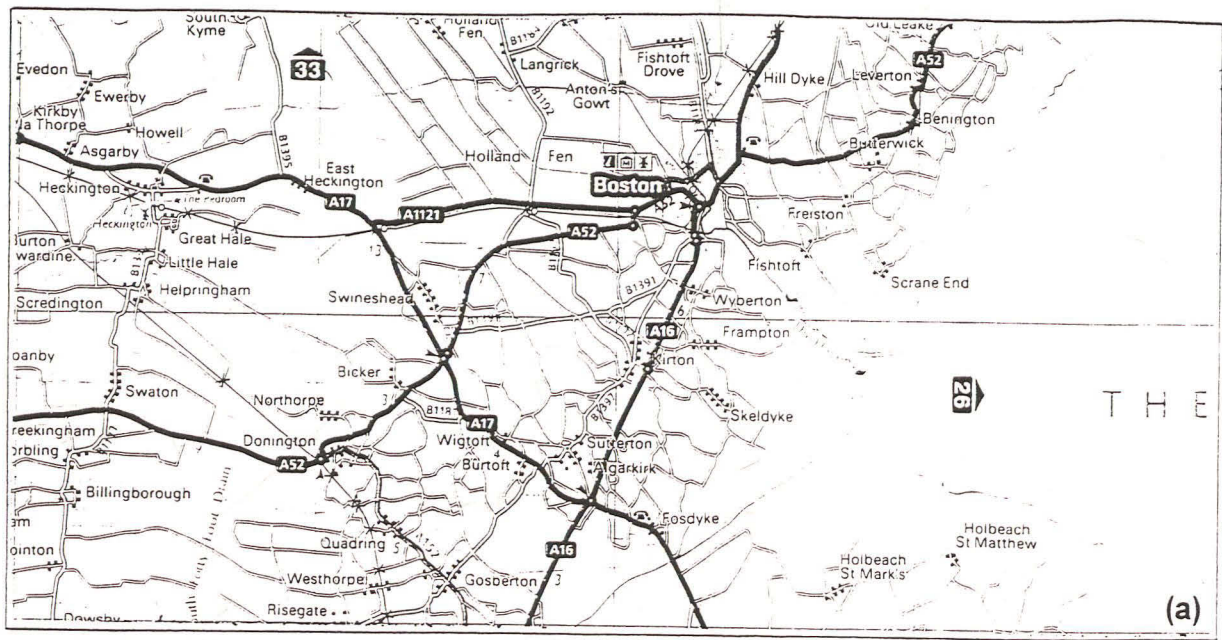


Fig. 1 Location of Boston (C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map Sheet 131; © Crown Copyright, reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

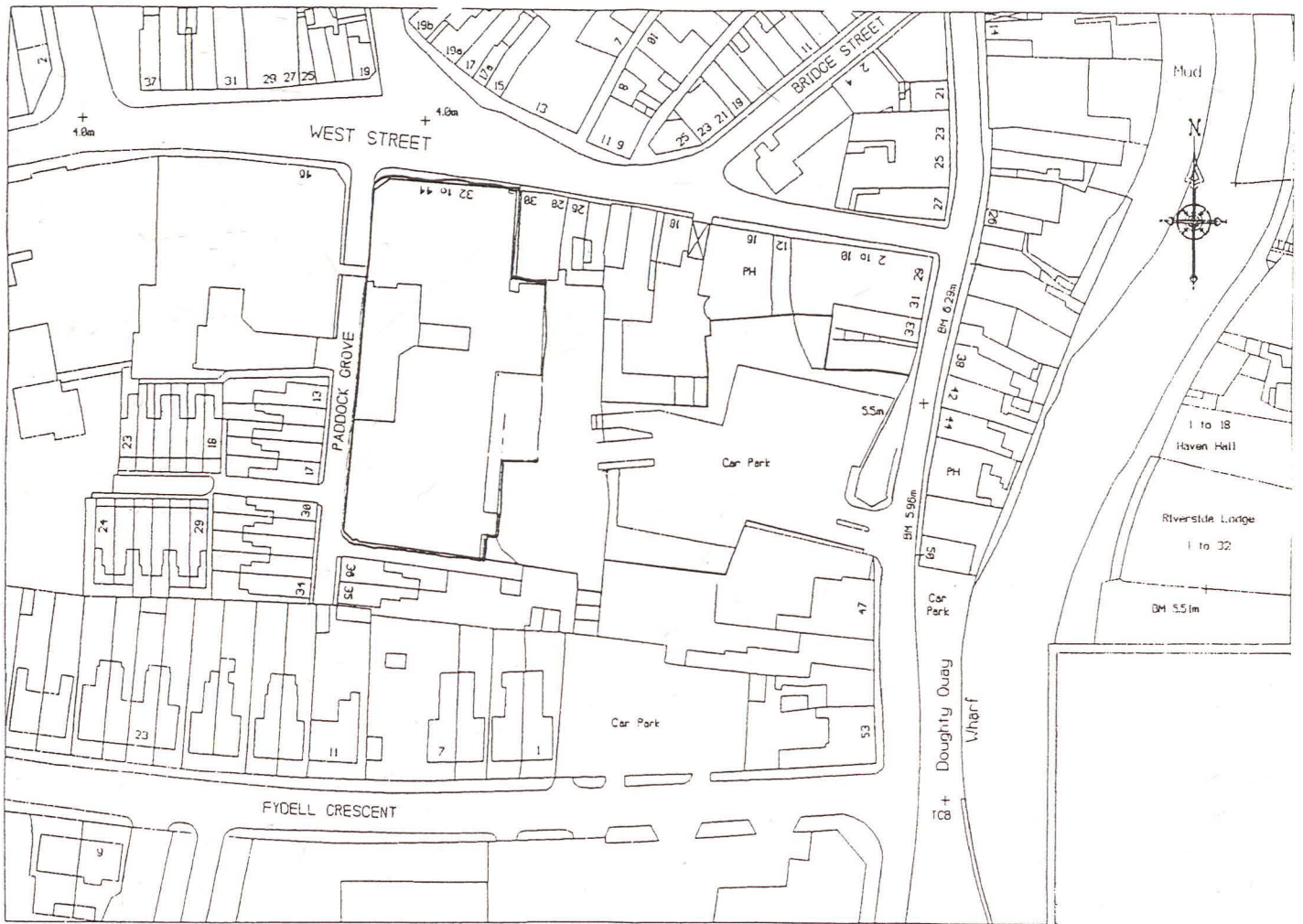


Fig. 2 Location of the monitored development site (based on a plan supplied by the client. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

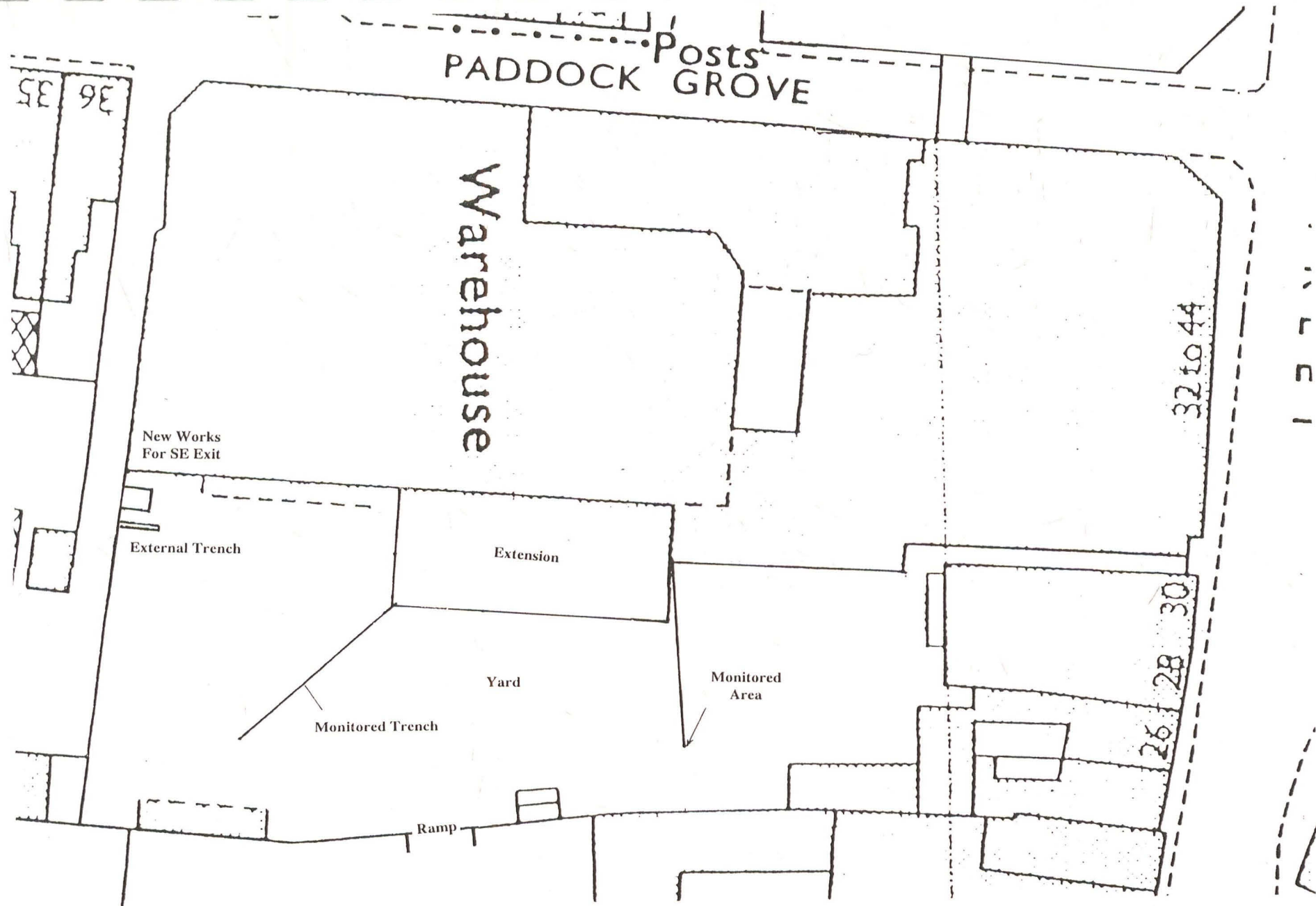


Fig. 3 Plan showing the positions of the monitored groundworks to the east of the main building ((based on an extract from the 1970 Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, Sheet TF 3243 NE. © Crown Copyright, reproduced at enlarged scale with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

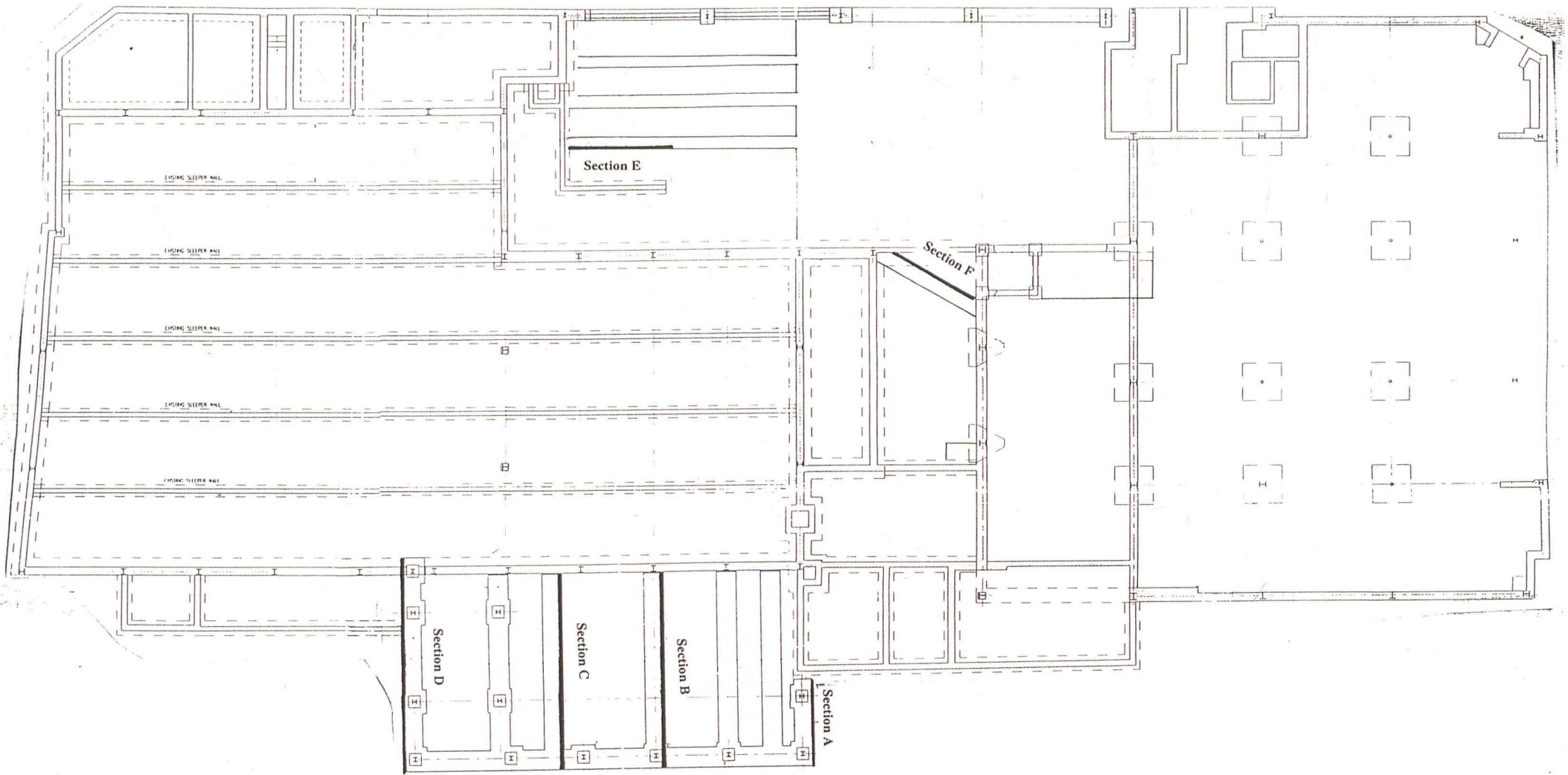
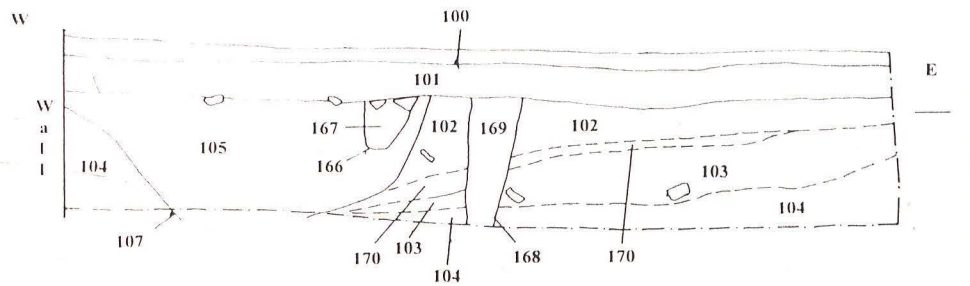
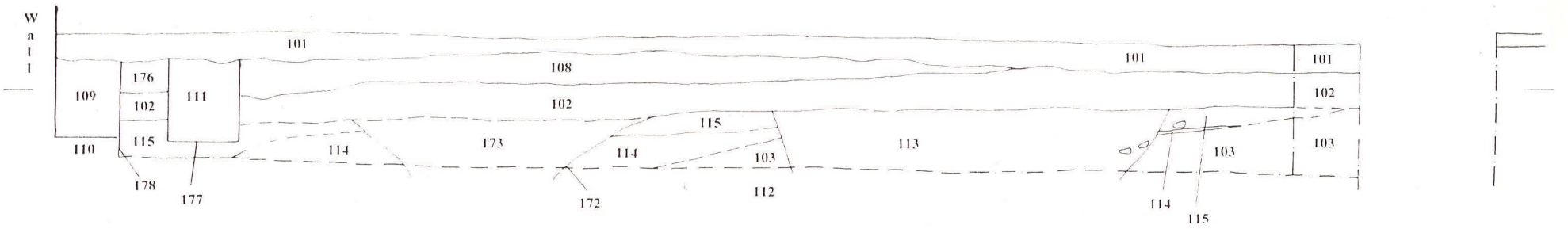


Fig. 4 Locations of the recorded trench sections (based on a plan supplied by the client).

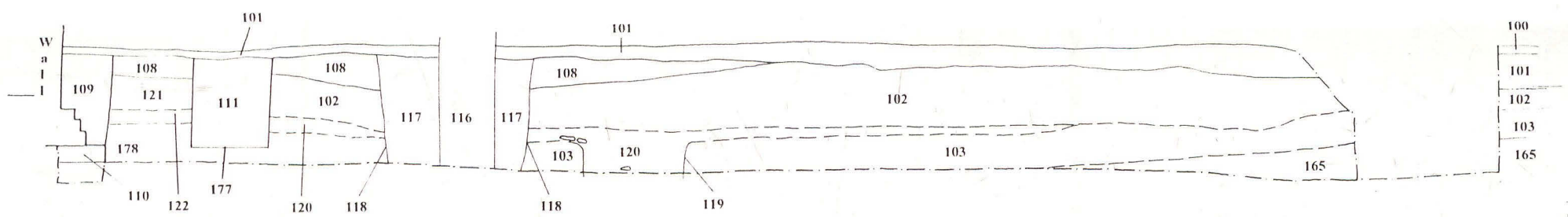
A



B



C



D

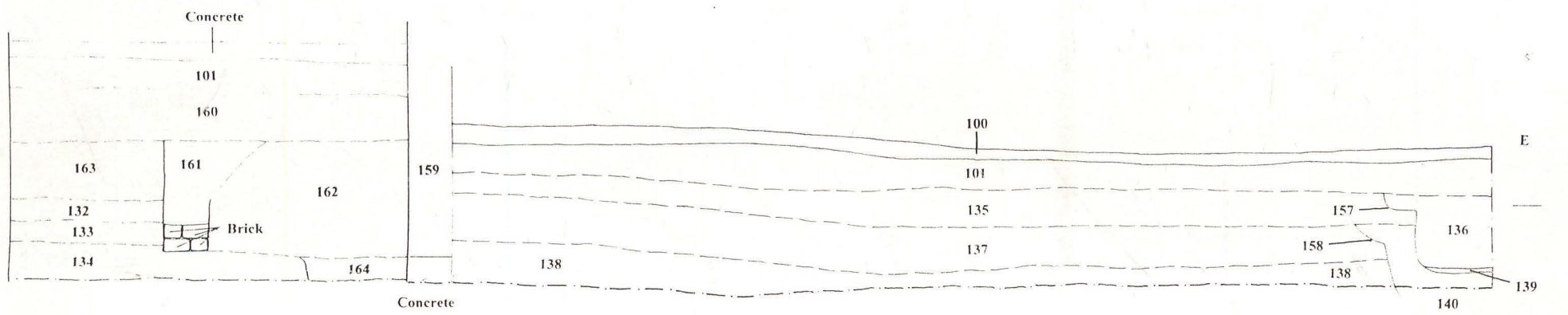


Fig. 5 Sections showing deposits visible in the trench faces of the Eastern Extension (McDaid, after Field and Tann).

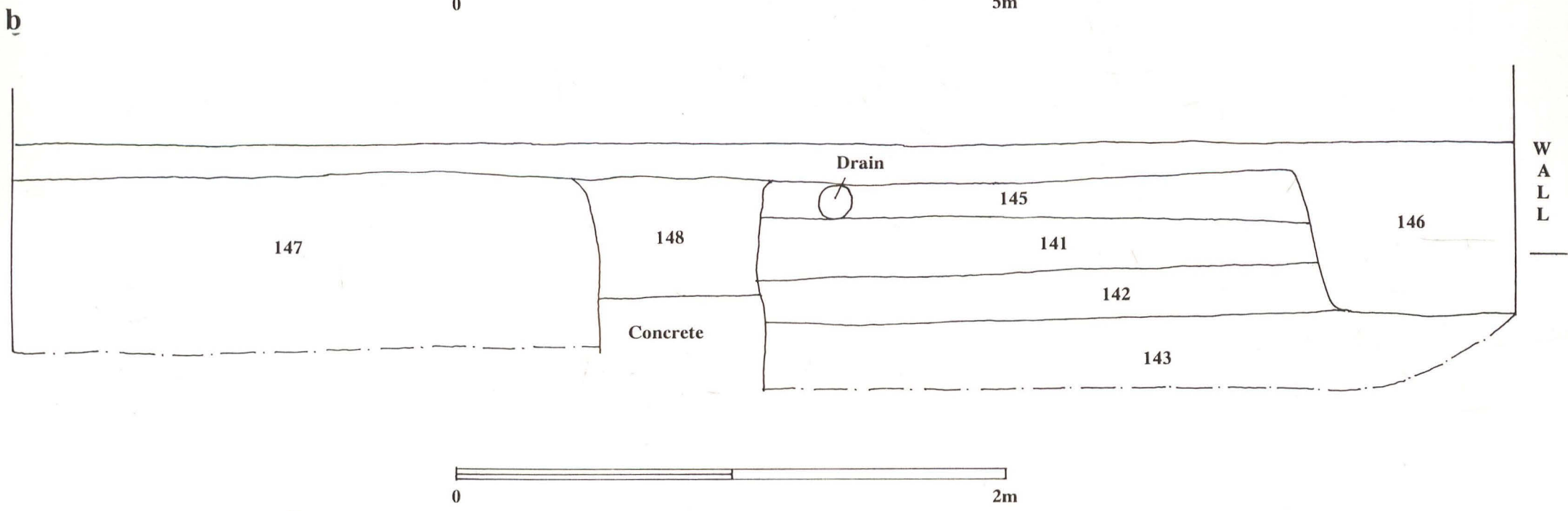
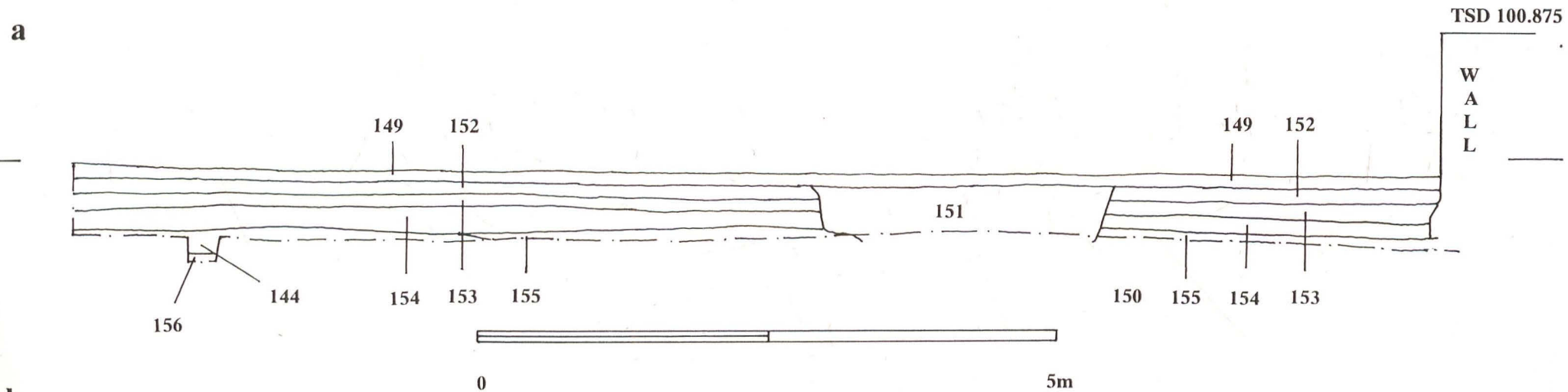


Fig. 6 a) Section showing deposits in the eastern slot trench, Cinema 1 (McDaid, after Tann);
 b) Section showing deposits in a trench excavated in the area of the Central Access (McDaid, after Tann).

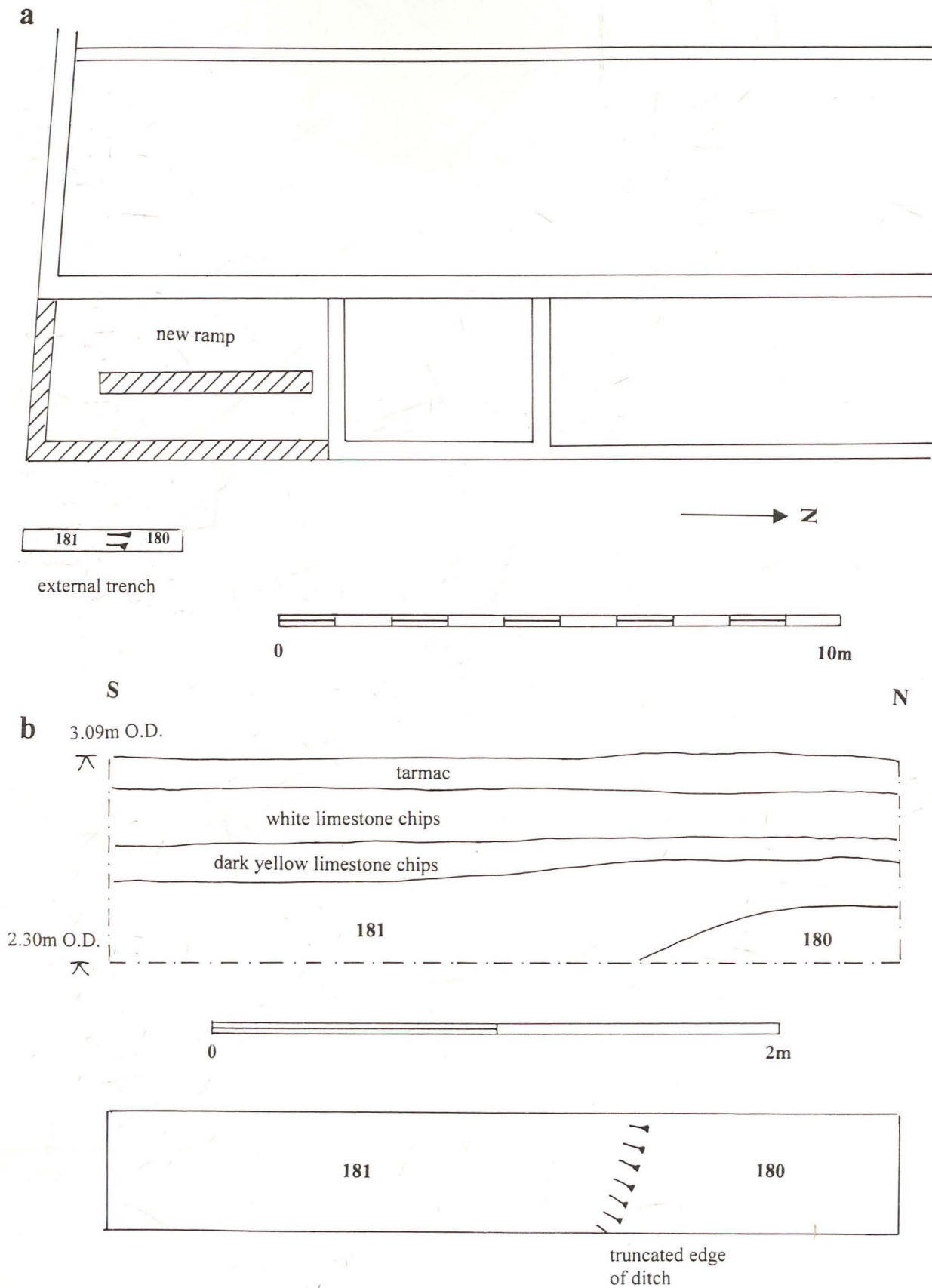


Fig. 7 a) Plan showing deposits in the External Trench alongside the SE Exit (Field, after Tann);
 b) Section showing deposits in the External Trench (Field, after Tann).

The Plates



Pl. 1 Northern face of Trench 1 (looking NW).

Pl. 2 Location of Trench 1 (short trench) and Trench 2 (extending to main building). Looking NW.





Pl. 3 Deposits visible in northern face of Trench 2 (looking west).

Pl. 4 Brick cover of tile drain visible to east of Trench 2 in the eastern face of Trench 8 (looking SE).





Pl. 5 Trenches 1-3, showing deposits in northern face of Trench 3 (looking NW).

Pl. 6 Deposits visible in the northern face of Trench 4 (looking NE).





Pl. 7 Northern face of Trench 5 (looking NE).

Pl. 8 Silts deposits at the western end of the northern face of Trench 5 (looking NW).





Pl. 9 Trenches 5 (right), 6, and 7 (left). Looking west.

Pl. 10 Southern face of Trench 7, at the southern end of the main extension (looking SW).





Pl. 11 Dark silt fills of pits 157 and 158 (looking south at the SE corner of Trench 7).



Pl. 12 Darker silt visible at the eastern end of the Eastern Extension trenches immediately after machining (Trench 2, looking east).



Pl. 13 Position of the three narrow slot trenches in Cinema 1 (looking north).

Pl. 14 Brick rubble and underlying silt deposits seen in the eastern slot trench in Cinema 1 (looking east).





Pl. 15 Trench excavated at the western side of the Central Access Area (looking west).

Pl. 16 Fragments of plaster decoration found re-used as backfill below the floor at the NE corner of the Central Access Area (looking north).





Pl. 17 Brick rubble and soil below the suspended floor in the position of the new SW Stair Access (looking west).

Pl. 18 Position of trenches inspected in the position of the new NE Access (looking SW to the Central Access Area).





Pl. 19 Trench through brick rubble north of the former lift shaft, in the position of the new Fire Escape/Wheelchair Route (looking west).



Pl. 20 Drain connection trench, excavated from the new extension towards the SE corner of the yard (looking NW).



Pl. 21 Junction between black silt layer 183 and the underlying brown silt 182 (background) seen in the drain connection trench (looking SE).



Pl. 22 Short trench excavated beside the new SE Exit (looking north towards the new extension).

Pl. 23 Silt deposits in the trench beside the SE Exit, with thicker black silt (left) possibly marking the position of a backfilled boundary ditch (looking west).





Pl. 24 A laid brick surface was exposed beside the entrance through the wall at the northern side of the car park area closer to High Street (looking east).

Pl. 25 Position of the entrance with laid brick surface (left foreground), to the east of the cinema development site (looking NE).

